

CONFIDENTIAL

9 June 1955

Mr. John T. Campbell, Head
BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, Berks., U. K.

Dear John:

The housing that we have been occupying at Camp Crawford, Sapporo, Hokkaido, has suddenly been withdrawn and we find ourselves faced with the problem of providing funds and building necessary housing. I am relatively confident that we can do this, although I am certain to be asked whether or not the material produced by the Hokkaido Bureau is of sufficient value to warrant this major expenditure.

My own feeling on the matter is that although the bulk of material from Hokkaido is not of great importance, it is unique coverage and it could not be replaced if we were forced to close down the Hokkaido operation. I am also of the opinion that there are occasional items of industrial and economic import that are of considerable value to intelligence analysts. I am attempting to confirm or refute these impressions by a more careful survey of the American intelligence community.

I would appreciate the views of the BBC on the value of Hokkaido monitoring and would hope that it would reflect the views of British intelligence offices. I wish to assure you that I am not at all interested in guiding the reaction, since if this Bureau's production is of small value to you and your customers, it may well be that we could re-direct the funds to our greater mutual advantage elsewhere.

Would it be unreasonable to ask for a reply by 30 June? I apologize in advance for the suddenness of this request, but the housing crisis was equally sudden and has thrown us in considerable confusion as you may well imagine.

Sincerely,

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[Redacted]
Chief, FBI

AMW:fas

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